

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 11 and 12 have been converted from dependent form into independent form. This change has not narrowed or limited the scope of the claims. In view of pages 5-6 of the office action, claims 7-9 and 11-12 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-6, 10, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yurtin (US 3,977,757). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 1 claims that a deflectable section of the conductive element is located between the third contact region and the first and second contact regions, and that portions of the conductive element having the first and second contact regions extend separately directly from the deflectable section. This can be seen in the drawings of the present application at Figs. 1 and 3, wherein the legs 14, 15 having the contact regions 5, 6 extend from a deflectable section (which extends from the barded section 4 that is connected to the contact region 7).

Yurtin discloses transverse portion 50 with dimples 52 and tongues 44, 46 with dimples 48. However, the tongues 44, 46 and the transverse portion 50 do not extend from a deflectable section which the tongue 42 also extends from. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Yurtin of a deflectable section of the female terminal 32 which extends from the third contact region (42), and that the first and second contact regions (48, 50) extend separately directly from the deflectable

section. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-6, 10 and 13 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 14 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 14 claims that the first leg and the second leg extend from a common deflectable section which extends directly from the mounted or mounting section. Yurtin discloses transverse portion 50 with dimples 52 and tongues 44, 46 with dimples 48. However, the tongues 44, 46 and the transverse portion 50 do not extend from a common deflectable section. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Yurtin of the first leg (44, 46) and the second leg (50) extending from a common deflectable section which extends directly from the mounted or mounting section (36). The features of claim 14 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 14 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 15 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 15 claims that the legs of the first and second contact regions extend from a common deflectable section located between the base contact region and the legs of the first and second contact regions. Yurtin discloses transverse portion 50 with dimples 52 and tongues


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44, 46 with dimples 48. However, the tongues 44, 46 and the transverse portion 50 do not extend from a common deflectable section. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Yurtin of legs (44, 46 or 50) of the first and second contact regions extending from a common deflectable section located between the base contact region (36) and the legs (44, 46 or 50) of the first and second contact regions. The features of claim 15 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 15 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 16 has been added to claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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9/27/04

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Reply to Office Action of: 07/01/2004

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